	40.	As set forth in the First Claim, both Third Party Defendants, Western and Worthington,
separ	ately co	entracted with Defendant/Third Party Plaintiff, Bernzomatic, to defend and indemnify
Bern	zomatic	against claims involving cylinders manufactured by each of them.

RESPONSE: Worthington admits that the agreement between Irwin Industrial Tool Company and Worthington Cylinders Wisconsin, LLC and the agreement between Western and Newell Operating Company speak for themselves. Worthington denies the remaining allegations in Paragraph 40 that are directed at Worthington. Worthington is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in Paragraph 40 and on that basis denies each and every remaining allegation contained therein.

One purpose of the contractual provision to identify a cylinder manufacturer in the 41. absence of a serial number or other reliable information is to insure that at least one of the manufacturers will take responsibility for the manufacture of the cylinder.

RESPONSE: Worthington admits that the agreement between Irwin Industrial Tool Company and Worthington Cylinders Wisconsin, LLC and the agreement between Western and Newell Operating Company speak for themselves. Worthington is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in Paragraph 41 and on that basis denies each and every remaining allegation contained therein.

The identification of the cylinder manufacturer may be necessary to enforce 42. Defendant/Third Party Plaintiff Bernzomatic's rights to a defense and indemnification as set forth in the First, Second and Third Claims.

RESPONSE: Worthington is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 42 and on that basis denies each and every allegation contained therein.

28

3 4

5

6 7

9 10

8

11

12 13

14

15

16 17

18

19

20

21 22

> 23 24

25

26

27

28

Walnut Creek 94596

wles & Verna LLP N. California Blvd Suite 875

FIFTH CLAIM - ESTOPPEL

43. Defendant/Third Party Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations in Paragraph 1 through 42 as if fully rewritten herein.

RESPONSE: Worthington refers to Paragraphs 1 through 42 of this Answer to Bernzomatic's Third Party Complaint and by this reference incorporates the same herein as though fully set forth.

Given the allegations in the Shalaby litigation that a Bernzomatic-branded MAPP gas 44. cylinder caused Plaintiff's injuries, it is undisputed that either Western or Worthington manufactured the MAPP gas cylinder.

RESPONSE: Worthington denies the allegations in Paragraph 44.

45. If Plaintiffs are able to maintain an action against Defendant/Third Party Plaintiff Bernzomatic for injuries, Western and Worthington are estopped from denying responsibility for the manufacture, sale and distribution of the Bernzomatic-branded MAPP gas cylinder as it would lead to an unjust result.

RESPONSE: Worthington denies the allegations in Paragraph 45 that are directed at Worthington. Worthington is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in Paragraph 45 and on that basis denies each and every remaining allegation contained therein.

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Insufficient Facts to Constitute a Cause of Action)

As a first, separate and distinct affirmative defense to the Third Party Complaint and 1. each cause of action thereof, Worthington alleges that some or all of the claims for relief fail to state facts sufficient to constitute a cause of action against Worthington.

CASE NO.: C06-07026 MJJ

Bowles & Verna LLP
121 N. California Blvd
Suite 875
Walnut Creek 94596

CASE 1

SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Negligence of Third Party Plaintiff)

2. As a second, separate and distinct affirmative defense to the Third Party Complaint and each cause of action thereof, Worthington alleges that Bernzomatic was careless and negligent with respect to matters alleged in the Third Party Complaint and such carelessness and negligence proximately caused and contributed to the extent of one hundred percent (100%) to the happening of the incident, loss and damages complained of, if any there were, and this contributory negligence bars or at least proportionately reduces any potential recovery.

THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Negligence of Others)

3. As a third, separate and distinct affirmative defense to the Third Party Complaint and each cause of action thereof, Worthington alleges that the damages Plaintiffs and Third Party Plaintiff complained of, if any there were, were proximately contributed to or caused by the carelessness, negligence, fault or defects created by the remaining parties in this action, or by other persons, corporations or business entities, unknown to Worthington at this time and were not caused in any way by Worthington or by persons for whom Worthington is legally liable.

FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Imputed Negligence)

4. As a fourth, separate and distinct affirmative defense to the Third Party Complaint and each cause of action thereof, Worthington alleges that the damages complained of, if any there were, were either wholly or in part, negligently or otherwise, caused by persons, firms, corporations, or entities other than Worthington, and such negligence or other conduct is either imputed to Bernzomatic, by reason of the relationship of such parties to Bernzomatic, and/or such negligence or other conduct comparatively reduces the percentage of negligence, if any, by Worthington.

CASE NO.: C06-07026 MJJ

FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Statute of Limitations)

5. As a fifth, separate and distinct affirmative defense to the Third Party Complaint and each cause of action thereof, some or all of Bernzomatic's causes of action are barred by the applicable statute of limitations including, but not limited to, California Code of Civil Procedure, Sections 337, 339, and 343.

SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Breach of Contract)

6. As a sixth, separate and distinct affirmative defense to the Third Party Complaint and each cause of action thereof, if there presently exists or ever existed, any or all of the alleged rights as asserted herein by Bernzomatic, Bernzomatic cannot assert any of the contractual claims contained in the Third Party Complaint because Bernzomatic, as well as its agents, materially breached said contract or contracts.

SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Intervening Cause)

7. As a seventh, separate and distinct affirmative defense to the Third Party Complaint and each cause of action thereof, the injuries and damages of which Bernzomatic complains were proximately caused or contributed to by the acts of other persons and/or entities. These acts were an intervening, supervening and superseding cause of the damages, if any, of which Bernzomatic alleges it suffered, thereby barring Bernzomatic from any recovery against Worthington.

EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Waiver)

8. As an eighth, separate and distinct affirmative defense to the Third Party Complaint and each cause of action thereof, by conduct, representations and omissions, Bernzomatic has waived, relinquished and/or abandoned any claim for relief against Worthington respecting the matters which are the subject of the Third Party Complaint.

8

13

20

18

Bowles & Verna LLP 2121 N. California Blvd Suite 875 Walnut Creek 94596

NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Estoppel)

9. As a ninth, separate and distinct affirmative defense to the Third Party Complaint and each cause of action thereof, by conduct, representations and omissions, Bernzomatic is equitably estopped to assert any claim for relief against Worthington respecting the matters which are the subject of the Third Party Complaint.

TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Unclean Hands)

10. As a tenth, separate and distinct affirmative defense to the Third Party Complaint and each cause of action thereof, no relief may be obtained by Bernzomatic under the Third Party Complaint by reason of the doctrine of unclean hands.

ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Superseding & Intervening Cause)

As an eleventh, separate and distinct affirmative defense to the Third Party Complaint and each cause of action thereof, Worthington alleges that responsibility for any harm, injury or damages sustained by Bernzomatic was caused by acts or events which constitute a superseding and intervening cause.

TWELFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Failure to Mitigate)

As a twelfth, separate and distinct affirmative defense to the Third Party Complaint and each cause of action thereof, Worthington alleges that Bernzomatic and/or its representatives failed and neglected to use reasonable care to protect themselves and to minimize the losses and damages complained of, if any there were. Worthington further alleges that Plaintiffs' alleged injuries, loss, or damages, if any, were aggravated by plaintiffs' failure to use reasonable diligence to mitigate same.

THIRTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Good Faith)

13. As a thirteenth, separate and distinct affirmative defense to the Third Party Complaint and each cause of action thereof, Bernzomatic's causes of action are barred in whole or in part because

6

11

9

13

15

26

any actions taken by Worthington were fair and reasonable and were performed in good faith based on all relevant facts known to Worthington at the time.

FOURTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Comparative Fault)

14. As a fourteenth, separate and distinct affirmative defense to the Third Party Complaint and each cause of action thereof, to the extent Bernzomatic has the right to recover any amount from Worthington (which right Worthington denies), such recovery must be reduced by the amount of damage attributable to Bernzomatic's own negligence and fault.

FIFTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Offset and Reduction)

15. As a fifteenth, separate and distinct affirmative defense to the Third Party Complaint and each cause of action thereof, Bernzomatic should be barred from recovery in whole or part, in proportion to the fault attributed to itself.

SIXTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Constructive Fraud)

16. As a sixteenth, separate and distinct affirmative defense to the Third Party Complaint and each cause of action thereof, at all times relevant, Bernzomatic or his agents failed, concealed and/or refused to disclose certain material documents and facts to Worthington, thus misleading Worthington to its extreme prejudice. Bernzomatic's or its agent's constructive fraud/unclean hands serves as a bar to the entire action and as to Bernzomatic's claims as against Worthington.

SEVENTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Willful and Gross Contributory Negligence)

17. As a seventeenth, separate and distinct affirmative defense to the Third Party Complaint and each cause of action thereof, if there presently exists or ever existed, any or all of the alleged rights as asserted herein by Bernzomatic, Bernzomatic and its agents were willfully and grossly negligent in the matters alleged, thereby causing and contributing to any injury, damage or loss to Bernzomatic.

3

4

6

7 8

10 11

9

12 13

15

14

16 17

18

19 20

21

2223

2425

26

27

28

Bowles & Verna LLP 2121 N. California Blvd Suite 875 Walnut Creek 94596

EIGHTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Partial Indemnity)

As an eighteenth, separate and distinct affirmative defense to the Third Party Complaint and each cause of action thereof, if there presently exists or ever existed, any or all of the alleged rights as asserted herein by Bernzomatic, Bernzomatic was negligent or legally responsible or otherwise at fault for the damages alleged in the Third Party Complaint. Worthington therefore requests that, in the event of a finding of any liability in favor of Bernzomatic or settlement or judgment against Worthington, an apportionment of fault be made among all parties by the court or jury. Worthington further requests a judgment and declaration of partial indemnification and contribution against all other parties or persons in accordance with the apportionment of fault.

NINETEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Ratification, Consent)

19. As a nineteenth, separate and distinct affirmative defense to the Third Party Complaint and each cause of action thereof, if there presently exists or ever existed, any or all of the alleged rights as asserted herein by Bernzomatic, such rights are unenforceable as Bernzomatic consented to or ratified the acts of Worthington after full disclosure of all pertinent facts.

TWENTIETH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Failure of Consideration)

20. As a twentieth, separate and distinct affirmative defense to the Third Party Complaint and each cause of action thereof, if there presently exists or ever existed, any or all of the alleged rights as asserted herein by Bernzomatic, such rights are unenforceable as Bernzomatic's claims are barred as a result of a failure of consideration.

TWENTY-FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Assumption of Risk)

21. As a twenty-first, separate and distinct affirmative defense to the Third Party Complaint and each cause of action thereof, if there presently exists or ever existed, any or all of the alleged rights

8

15

13

27

Bowles & Verna LLP 2121 N. California Blvd Suite 875 Walnut Creek 94596

as asserted herein by Bernzomatic, such rights are unenforceable as Bernzomatic assumed the risk involved in the transaction.

TWENTY-SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Laches)

22. As a twenty-second, separate and affirmative defense to the Third Party Complaint and each cause of action thereof, Worthington alleges that Bernzomatic's unreasonable delay in seeking to implead Worthington is a basis for denying its impleader.

TWENTY-THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Unforseeable Use)

23. As a twenty-third, separate and affirmative defense to the Third Party Complaint and each cause of action thereof, Worthington alleges that any alleged defect in any product allegedly supplied by Worthington was caused by the unauthorized, unreasonable, and unforeseeable use of the product by plaintiffs or other individuals, and accordingly, Worthington has no liability with respect to the same.

TWENTY-FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Failure to Comply with Instructions)

24. As a twenty-fourth, separate and affirmative defense to the Third Party Complaint and each cause of action thereof, Worthington alleges that Plaintiffs failed to comply with the written and oral instructions relating to use of the product and this failure caused the alleged damages, if any, suffered by plaintiffs.

TWENTY-FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Assumption of Risk by Plaintiffs)

25. As a twenty-fifth, separate and affirmative defense to the Third Party Complaint and each cause of action thereof, Worthington alleges that Plaintiffs are barred from recovery in that they were fully informed of the risk and possible consequences of the use of the product. Plaintiffs had full knowledge of, and accepted and assumed any and all risks and possible adverse effects related to the

4

5

3

6

9 10

8

12

13

11

14 15

> 16 17

> > 18

19 20

21

2223

24

2526

27

28

Bowles & Verna LLP 2121 N. California Blvd Suite 875 Walnut Creek 94596

use of the product described in plaintiffs' Complaint and the circumstances surrounding the use of the product.

TWENTY-SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Altered Product)

26. As a twenty-sixth, separate and affirmative defense to the Third Party Complaint and each cause of action thereof, Worthington alleges the product which is the subject of this action may have been, without Worthington's knowledge or approval, redesigned, modified and/or altered in such a way as to create the alleged defect which resulted in the injuries and damages claimed by Plaintiffs.

TWENTY-SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (State of the Art)

27. As a twenty-seventh, separate and affirmative defense to the Third Party Complaint and each cause of action thereof, Worthington alleges that that the products at issue met the standards of the state of the art and state of scientific knowledge at the time of its manufacture and distribution to the extent of available scientific and technological knowledge then available. Further, at all relevant times, Worthington acted in conformity with the existing state of knowledge, common and accepted procedures, and state of the art in the manufacture of the products.

TWENTY-EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Negligence of Plaintiffs)

28. As a twenty-eighth, separate and distinct affirmative defense to the Third Party

Complaint and each cause of action thereof, Worthington alleges that Plaintiffs were careless and negligent with respect to matters alleged in the Complaint and such carelessness and negligence proximately caused and contributed to the extent of one hundred percent (100%) to the happening of the incident, loss and damages complained of, if any there were, and this contributory negligence bars or at least proportionately reduces any potential recovery.

CASE NO.: C06-07026 MJJ

3

4

7 8

9

6

10

11 12

13

14 15

16

17

18

19 20

21

22

2324

25

2627

28

Bowles & Verna LLP 2121 N. California Blvd Suite 875 Walnut Creek 94596

TWENTY-NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE (Other Defenses)

29. As a twenty-ninth, separate and affirmative defense to the Third Party Complaint and each cause of action thereof, Worthington reserves all rights to supplement this Answer with additional denials and/or affirmative defenses, as further facts are discovered in this litigation.

WHEREFORE, WORTHINGTON INDUSTRIES, INC., having fully responded to Bernzomatic's Third Party Complaint against it, prays that it be henceforth discharged and that all costs be cast upon the Bernzomatic.

BOWLES & VERNA LLP

By:

Richard A. Ergo Cathleen S. Huang

Attorneys for Third Party Defendant WORTHINGTON INDUSTRIES, INC.

2 3

4

5 6

7

8 9

10

11

12

13

14 15

16

17

18 19

20

22

21

23

24 25

26

27

28

Bowles & Verna LLP N. California Blvd. Suite 875 Walnut Creek 94596

PROOF OF SERVICE

(Shalaby v. Irwin - USDC, Northern District of California, Case No: C 06 7026 MJJ)

I, the undersigned, declare as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States, over the age of 18 years, and not a party to, or interested in the within entitled action. I am an employee of BOWLES & VERNA LLP, and my business address is 2121 N. California Blvd., Suite 875, Walnut Creek, California 94596.

On August 16, 2007, I served the following document(s):

WORTHINGTON INDUSTRIES, INC.'S ANSWER TO BERNOMATIC'S THIRD PARTY COMPLAINT

on the following parties in this action addressed as follows:

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

Mark D. Epstein Alborg, Veiluva & Epstein LLP

200 Pringle Avenue, Suite 410 Walnut Creek, CA 94596

(925) 939-9880 Tel: Fax:

(925) 939-9915

Attorneys for Defendant and Third Party Plaintiff Bernzomatic and Defendant The Home Depot

J. Phillip Moorhead Keller, Price & Moorhead 229 Avenue I, 2nd Floor

Redondo Beach, CA 90277-5600

(310) 540-1332

(BY MAIL) I caused each such envelope, with postage thereon fully paid, to be placed in the United States mail at XXXX Walnut Creek, California. I am readily familiar with the business practice for collection and processing of mail in this office. That in the ordinary course of business said document(s) would be deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in Walnut Creek on that same day. I understand that service shall be presumed invalid upon motion of a party served if the postal cancellation date or postage meter date on the envelope is more than one day after the date of deposit for mailing contained on this affidavit.

(BY PERSONAL SERVICE) I delivered each such envelope by hand to each addressee above.

(BY OVERNIGHT DELIVERY) I caused each envelope, with delivery fees provided for, to be deposited in a box regularly maintained by UPS/FEDERAL EXPRESS. I am readily familiar with Bowles & Verna's practice for collection and processing of correspondence for overnight delivery and know that in the ordinary course of Bowles & Verna's business practice the document(s) described above will be deposited in a box or other facility regularly maintained by UPS/FEDERAL EXPRESS or delivered to an authorized courier or driver authorized by UPS/FEDERAL EXPRESS to receive documents on the same date that it is placed at Bowles & Verna for collection.

(BY FACSIMILE) By use of facsimile machine number (925) 935-0371 or (925) 256-1755, I served a copy of the within document(s) on the above interested parties at the facsimile numbers listed above. The transmission was reported as complete and without error. The transmission report was properly issued by the transmitting facsimile machine.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, and that I am employed in the office of a member of the Bar of this Court at whose direction the service was made. Executed on August 16, 2007, at Walnut Creek, California.

Joshua S. Goodman – SB # 116576 Pavan L. Rosati – SB # 146171 Jenkins Goodman Neuman & Hamilton LLP 417 Montgomery Street, 10th Floor San Francisco, CA 94104 Telephone: (415) 705-0400 Facsimile: (415) 705-0411

Facsimile: (415) 705-0411

Attorneys for Defendants HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC., NEWELL RUBBERMAID, INC. and RUBBERMAID, INC.

E-Filling

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ANDREW SHALABY, an individual, an SONIA DUNN-RUIZ, an individual,

Plaintiffs,

V\$.

NEWELL RUBBERMAID, INC., a Delaware corporation, THE HOME DEPOT, INC., a Delaware corporation and DOES 1 - 100,

Defendants.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE OF NOTICE TO ADVERSE PARTY OF REMOVAL TO FEDERAL COURT

18

19

20

21

22

23

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

15

16

17

I, Nikki Sands, certify and declare as follows:

I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to this action. My business address is 417 Montgomery Street, 10th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104, which is located in the City, County and State where the mailing described below took place.

On November 9, 2006, I deposited in the United States Mail at San Francisco, California, a copy of the Notice to Adverse Party of Removal to Federal Court dated November 9, 2006, a copy of which is attached to this Certificate.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the

en Francisco, CA 26 (415) 705-0400

> CERTIFICATE OF SERV OF NTC TO ADVERSE PARTY OF REMOVAL TO FEDERAL COURT -1 10341894.tif - 11/9/2006 1:19:43 PM

foregoing is true and correct. day of November, 2006, at San Francisco, California. Executed this 7. Sand 17 Montgomery St. 10th Ploor San Prancisco, CA 94104 (415) 705-0400

10341894.tif - 11/9/2006 1:19:43 PM -

<u>PROOF OF SERVICE</u> CASE NAME: Shalaby v. Home Depot, et al. CASE NUMBER: 3 DATE OF SERVICE: November 9, 2006 **DESCRIPTION OF DOGUMENTS SERVED:** 4 CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE OF NOTICE TO ADVERSE PARTY 5 OF REMOVAL TO FEDERAL COURT 6 SERVED ON THE FOLLOWING: Mark D. Epstein, Esq. Alborn, Veiluva & EpsteinLLP 200 Pringle Avenue, Suite 410 Walnut Čreek, CA 94596 925.939.9915 fax 10 J. Phillip Moorhead, Esq. Keller, Price & Moorhead 229 Avenue I, Second Floor Redondo Beach, CA 90277-5600 12 310.540.8480 fax I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to or interested in the above-named 13 case. I am an employee of Jenkins Goodman Neuman & Hamilton LLP, and my business address is 417 Montgomery Street, 10th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104. On the date stated above, I served a true copy of the document(s) described above, by mail, by placing said document(s) in an envelope, addressed as shown above for collection and mailing on the date shown above following the ordinary business practices of Jenkins Goodman Neuman & Hamilton LLP! I am readily familiar with my firm's practice for collection and processing of correspondence for mailing with the United States Postal Service. Under that practice, said document(s) would be deposited with the United States Postal Service at 17 a post box in San Francisco, California on the same day (at approximately 5:00 P.M.) with postage thereon fully prepaid for first class mail. 18 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the 19 foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on the date stated 20 above. 21 Nikki Sands 22 23 f:\does\jsg\shalaby v, home depot\removal\does\pos.doc 24 Francisco. CA 26 15) 705-0400 PROOF OF SERVICE 1034/1894.tif-11/9/2006 1:19:43 PM

PROOF OF SERVICE 1 CASE NAME: Shalaby v. Home Depot, et al. 2 **CASE NUMBER:** 3 DATE OF SERVICE: November 9, 2006 DESCRIPTION OF DOCUMENTS SERVED: 4 NOTICE TO ADVERSE PARTY AND STATE COURT OF REMOVAL OF CIVIL ACTION TO FEDERAL COURT; NOTICE OF 5 REMOVAL OF ACTION UNDER 28 U.S.C. §1441(b) (DIVERSITY); DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL 6 7 SERVED ON THE FOLLOWING: Mark D. Epstein, Esq. Alborn, Veiluva & EpsteinLLP 200 Pringle Avenue, Suite 410 Walnut Čreck, CA 94596 925.939.9915 fax 10 J. Phillip Moorhead, Esq. 11 Keller, Price & Moorhead 12 229 Avenue I, Second Floor Redondo Beach, CA 90277-5600 13 310.540.8480 fax I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to or interested in the above-named 14 case. I am an employee of Jenkins Goodman Neuman & Hamilton LLP, and my business address is 417 Montgomery Street, 10th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104. On the date stated above, I served a true copy of the document(s) described above, by mail, by placing said document(s) in an envelope, addressed as shown above for collection and mailing on the date shown above following the ordinary business practices of Jenkins Goodman Neuman & Hamilton LLP. I am readily familiar with my firm's practice for collection and 17 processing of correspondence for mailing with the United States Postal Service. Under that practice, said document(s) would be deposited with the United States Postal Service at 18 a post box in San Francisco, California on the same day (at approximately 5:00 P.M.) with postage thereon fully prepaid for first class mail. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the 20 foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on the date stated 21 above. 22 23 Nikki Sands 24 f:\docs\isg\shalaby v. home deportremoval docs\pos.do 7 Montgomery St. 10th Floor ian Francisco, CA 26 415) 705-0400

ITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ANDREW SHALABY,

v.

Plaintiff (s),

NEWELL RUBBERMAID INC, Defendant(s).

No. C 06-07026 CV

06 NOV -9 PM 3:01 ORDER SETTING INIT MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE AND ADR DEADLINES

E-Filing

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this action is assigned to the Honorable Claudia Wilken. When serving the complaint or notice of removal, the plaintiff or removing defendant must serve on all other parties a copy of this order, and all other documents specified in Civil Local Rule 4-2. Counsel must comply with the case schedule set forth below unless the Court otherwise orders.



IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this action is assigned to the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Multi-Option Program governed by ADR Local Rule 3. Counsel and clients shall familiarize themselves with that rule and with the material entitled "Dispute Resolution Procedures in the Northern District of California" on the Court ADR Internet site at www.adr.cand.uscourts.gov. A limited number of printed copies are available from the Clerk's Office for parties in cases not subject to the court's Electronic Case Filing program (ECF).

CASE SCHEDULE -ADR MULTI-OPTION PROGRAM

Date	Event	Governing Rule
11/9/2006	Notice of removal filed	
21 days before CMC * 1/26/2007	Last day to: • meet and confer re: initial disclosures, early settlement, ADR process selection, and discovery plan	FRCivP 26(f) & ADR L.R.3-5
	file ADR Certification signed by Parties and Counsel (form available at www.adr.cand.uscourts.gov)	Civil L.R. 16-8 (b) & ADR L.R. 3-5(b)
	 file either Stipulation to ADR Process or Notice of Need for ADR Phone Conference (forms available at www.adr.cand.uscourts.gov) 	Civil L.R .16-8 (c) & ADR L.R .3-5(b)& (c)
7 days before CMC * 2/9/2007	Last day to complete initial disclosures or state objection in Rule 26(f) Report, file Case Management Statement (form available at www.cand.uscourts.gov), and file Rule 26(f) Report	FRCivP 26(a) (1) & Civil L.R. 16-9
2/16/2007	INITIAL CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE (CMC) in Courtroom 2, Oakland at 1:30 PM	Civil L.R.16-10

* If the Initial Case Management Conference is continued, the other deadlines are continued accordingly.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

No.

ORDER SETTING CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

The above matter having been assigned to Judge Wilken, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to Rule 16, Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and Civil Local Rule 16, that a case management conference will be held before Judge Wilken on Friday, ______, at 1:30 p.m., in Courtroom 2, 4th Floor, 1301 Clay Street, Oakland, California.

Lead trial counsel shall meet and confer not less than thirty (30) days in advance of the conference and shall file a joint case management statement in the form contained in the Civil Local rules (copy attached) not less than ten (10) days in advance of the conference.

If the conference is inconveniently scheduled, it may be rescheduled by stipulation and order to another date or time convenient to the Court's calendar.

At the conclusion of the conference, an order will be entered setting dates either for a further case management conference, or for close of discovery, pretrial conference, and trial. Other orders regulating and controlling future proceedings may be entered.

Plaintiff(s) shall serve copies of this Order at once on all parties to this action, and on any parties subsequently joined, in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 and S. Following service, Plaintiff(s) shall file a certificate of service with the Clerk of this Court.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS ORDER may be deemed sufficient grounds for dismissal of this cause, default or other appropriate sanctions. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(f).

See attached for standard procedures.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

CLAUDIA WILKEN

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

NOTICE

Criminal Law and Motion calendar is conducted on Mondays at 2:00 p.m. Civil Law and Motion calendar is conducted on Fridays Case Management Conferences and Pretrial at 10:00 a.m. Conferences are conducted on Fridays at 1:30 p.m. Order of call is determined by the Court. Counsel need not reserve a hearing date for civil motions; however, counsel are advised to check the legal newspapers or the Court's website at www.cand.uscourts.gov for unavailable dates.

Motions for Summary Judgment: All issues shall be contained within one motion and shall conform with Civil L.R. 7-2. Separate statements of undisputed facts in support of or in opposition to motions for summary judgment will not be (See Civil Local Rule 56-2(a)). All considered by the Court. briefing on motions for summary judgment must be included in the memoranda of points and authorities in support of, opposition to, or reply to the motion, and must comply with the page limits of Civil Local Rule 7-4. The memoranda should include a statement of facts supported by citations to the declarations filed with respect to the motion. Cross or counter-motions shall be contained within the opposition to any motion for summary judgment and shall conform with Civil L.R. 7-3. The Court may, sua sponte or pursuant to a motion under Civil L.R. 6-3, reschedule the hearing so as to give a moving party time to file a surreply to the cross or counter-motion.

All DISCOVERY MOTIONS are referred to a Magistrate Judge to be heard and considered at the convenience of his/her calendar. All such matters shall be noticed by the moving party for hearing on the assigned Magistrate Judge's regular law and motion calendar, or pursuant to that Judge's procedures.

In all "E-Filing" cases when filing papers in connection with any motion for determination by the judge, the parties shall, in addition to filing papers electronically, lodge with chambers a printed copy of the papers by the close of the next court day following the day the papers are filed electronically. These printed copies shall be marked "Chambers Copy" and shall be submitted to the Clerk's Office, in an envelope clearly marked with the judge's name, case number and "E-Filing Chambers Copy." Parties shall not file a paper copy of any document with the Clerk's Office that has already been filed electronically.

2 3

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

31

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Plaintiff(s),

CASE NO.
JOINT CASE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT
AND PROPOSED ORDER

Defendant(s).

The parties to the above-entitled action jointly submit this Case Management Statement and Proposed Order and request the Court to adopt it as its Case Management Order in this case.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CASE

- 1. A brief description of the events underlying the action:
- 2. The principal factual issues which the parties dispute:
- 3. The principal legal issues which the parties dispute:
- 4. The other factual issues [e.g. service of process, personal jurisdiction, subject matter jurisdiction or venue] which remain unresolved for the reason stated below and how the parties propose to resolve those issues:
 - 5. The parties which have not been served and the reasons:
- 6. The additional parties which the below-specified parties intend to join and the intended time frame for such joinder:

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 7. The following parties consent to assignment of this case to a United States Magistrate Judge for [court or jury] trial:
- 8. The parties have already been assigned [or the parties have agreed] to the following court ADR process [e.g. Nonbinding Arbitration, Early Neutral Evaluation, Mediation, Early Settlement with a Magistrate Judge] [State the expected or scheduled date for the ADR session]:
- 9. The ADR process to which the parties jointly request [or a party separately requests] referral:

DISCLOSURES

10. The parties certify that they have made the following disclosures [list disclosures of persons, documents, damage computations and insurance agreements]:

1 DISCOVERY 2 11. The parties agree to the following discovery plan [Describe the plan e.g., any limitation on the number, duration or subject matter for various kinds of discovery; discovery from experts; deadlines for 3 completing discovery]: 4 TRIAL SCHEDULE 5 12. The parties request a trial date as follows: 6 13. The parties expect that the trial will last for the following number of days: 7 8 9 SIGNATURE AND CERTIFICATION BY PARTIES AND LEAD TRIAL COUNSEL 10 Pursuant to Civil L.R. 16-12, each of the undersigned certifies that he or she has read the brochure entitled "Dispute Resolution Procedures in the Northern District of California," discussed 11 the available dispute resolution options provided by the court and private entities and has considered whether this case might benefit from any of the available dispute resolution options. 12 13 Dated: [Typed name and signature of each party and lead trial counsel] 14 Dated: [Typed name and signature of each party and lead trial counsel] 15 16 17 CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER 18 The Case Management Statement and Proposed Order is hereby adopted by the Court as the 19 Case Management Order for the case and the parties are ordered to comply with this Order. In 20 addition the Court orders: [The Court may wish to make additional orders, such as: a. Referral of the parties to court or private ADR process; 21 b. Schedule a further Case Management Conference; c. Schedule the time and content of supplemental disclosures; 22 d. Specially set motions; e. Impose limitations on disclosure or discovery; 23 f. Set time for disclosure of identity, background and opinions of experts; g. Set deadlines for completing fact and expert discovery; 24 h. Set time for parties to meet and confer regarding pretrial submissions; 25 L Set deadline for hearing motions directed to the merits of the case; j. Set deadline for submission of pretrial material; 26 k. Set date and time for pretrial conference; I. Set a date and time for trial.] 27 28 Dated: UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

1	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT			
2	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA			
3	·			
4	†			
5	CASE NO. Plaintiff(s), SUPPLEMENTAL CASE MANAGEMENT			
6	v. STATEMENT AND PROPOSED ORDER			
7	Defendant(s).			
8				
9	Pursuant to Civil L.R. 16-14(d), the parties to the above-entitled action certify that they met			
10	and conferred at least 10 days prior to the subsequent case management conference scheduled in this case and jointly submit this Supplemental Case Management Statement and Proposed Order and			

request the Court to adopt it as a Supplemental Case Management Order in this case.

DESCRIPTION OF SUBSEQUENT CASE DEVELOPMENTS

- 1. The following progress or changes have occurred since the last case management statement filed by the parties:
- 2. The parties jointly request [or a party separately requests] the Court to make the following Supplemental Case Management Order:

Dated:	[Typed name and signature of	counsel)
Dated:	[Typed name and signature of	counsel

SUPPLEMENTAL CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER

The Supplemental Case Management Statement and Proposed Order is hereby adopted by the Court as a Supplemental Case Management Order for the case and the parties are ordered to comply with this Order. [In addition, the Court orders as follows:]

Б

1
NITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

5 6

7

11 12

15 16

17

18

19

20

21 22

23

24

25 rancisco. CA 26 Complaint is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

The first date upon which any of the Defendants received a copy of said 2. complaint was on October 13, 2006, when service of the summons and complaint was effected on defendant Home Depot U.S.A., Inc. by personal service on Corporation Service Company. A letter and a copy of the summons and complaint were served by certified mail on the registered agent for service of process for Newell Rubbermaid, Inc. on October 16, 2006. The first date upon which Defendant Rubbermaid Inc. received a copy of the Doe 1 Amendment to complaint was October 20, 2006 when it was served upon a Rubbermaid Inc. representative authorized to accept service of process. Attached hereto as Exhibits B and C, respectively, are copies of the Summons and of the Proof of Service on Newell Rubbermaid, Inc. Attached hereto as Exhibits D and E, respectively, are copies of the Summons and of the Proof of Service on Home Depot U.S.A., Inc.. Attached hereto as Exhibits F and G, respectively, are the Doe 1 Amendment to Complaint and the Proof of Service on Rubbermaid Inc. Defendant Home Depot U.S.A, Inc. answered the complaint on November 8, 2006. Defendants Newell Rubbermaid, Inc. and Rubbermaid, Inc. answered the complaint on November 9, 2006. Attached as Exhibit H are true and correct copies of Defendants' answers to complaint. Exhibits A through H constitute true and correct copies of the pleadings in the State Court's file served upon or by Defendants.

- This action is a civil action of which this Court has original jurisdiction 3. under 28 U.S.C. § 1332, and is one which may be removed to this Court by Defendants pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 1441(b) in that it is a civil action between citizens of different states and the matter in controversy exceeds the sum of \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs because:
- At page 3, paragraph 14 of the Complaint, Plaintiffs pray for (a) damages, "not less than \$5 million,"
 - Plaintiff Andrew Shalaby contends that as a result of the subject **(b)**

	1	accident, he sustained serious burns to his face and extremities. Medical costs to date total
	2	approximately \$350,000.00. Future medical costs are estimated to be \$200,000.00.
	3	Plaintiff Andrew Shalaby is also claiming lost income in the amount of \$150,000.00 and a
	4	future loss of earnings of approximately \$300,000.00. Plaintiff Sonia Dunn-Ruiz is
	5	claiming general damages in the amount of \$500,000.00 for negligent infliction of
	6	emotional distress.
	7	4. The complaint alleges Plaintiffs Andrew Shalaby and Sonia Dunn-Ruiz
	8	were, and still are, citizens of the State of California. The complaint alleges that defendants
	9	Newell Rubbermaid, Inc. and Home Depot U.S.A., Inc. are Delaware corporations.
	10	Defendant, Home Depot U.S.A., Inc., is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of
	11	business in the State of Georgia. Defendant, Newell Rubbermaid, Inc., is a Delaware
	12	corporation with its principal place of business in the State of Illinois. Defendant,
	-13	Rubbermaid Inc., was added to the complaint as Doe 1. Rubbermaid Inc. is an Ohio
	14	corporation with its principal place of business in the State of Georgia.
	15	DATED: November 9, 2006 JENKINS GOODMAN NEUMAN & HAMILTON
	16	LLP LLP
•,	17	paran L. Rosati Ese/
	18	Joshua S. Goodman, Attorneys for Defendants, HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC.,
	19	NEWELL RUBBERMAID, INC. and RUBBERMAID INC.
	20	ROBBERTHIS INC.
	21	
	22	
	23	
	24	
Jenkine Goodman Neuman & Hamilton LLP 417 Montgomery St.	25	
10 th Plant San Francisco, CA 94104 (415) 705-0400	26	
	t	

•		:	
		· · · ·	OCT 1 6 2008
,			982.1(1)
ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (N. MICHAEL J. VEILUVA (S. MARK, D. EPSTEIN (SBN	168221)		FOR GOURT USE ONLY
ALBORG, VEILUVA & EPS 200 Pringle Ave., Sui Walnut Creek CA 94596	TEIN LLP te 410	 	
TELEPHONE NO: (925)939- E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optonal): mepstein@ ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Plaintiff	arelew com	, i	ENDORSED
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA.	COUNTY OF ALAMEDA	Ti T) F31 F0
STREET ADDRESS: 1225 Fall	on Street	; 1	ALAMEDA COUNTY
MAILING ADDRESS:	4677		OCT 1 0 2006
CITY AND ZIP CODE: Oakland 9 BRANCH NAME: Northern	Division	<u></u>	
PLAINTIFF: ANDREW SE RUIZ, an individual	ALABY, an individua	l, and SONIA DUNN	By LAURA LUONG
OEFENDANT: NEWELL RU COrporation, THE HOME	JBBERMAID, INC., a D E DEPOT, INC., a Del	elaware aware corporation	
x DOES 1 TO 100			
COMPLAINT—Personal Injur AMENDED (Number):	y, Property Damage, Wrong	ful Death	
Type (check all that apply): MOTOR VEHICLE	X OTHER (specify): Pro	ducts Liability	·
Property Damage	Wrongful Death		
Personal Injury	Other Damages (sp	ecify):	
Jurisdiction (check all that app	ly);	1,	CASE NUMBER:
ACTION IS A LIMITED CI	VIL CASE does not exceed \$10,000	; };	,
1	exceeds \$10,000, but does	not exceed \$25,000	RG06292670
ACTION IS AN UNLIMITE	D CIVIL CASE (exceeds \$25,00 D by this amended complaint		RG000000
from limited to unli	mited		·
from unlimited to it	mited		
1. Plaintiff (name or names): A			,
This pleading, including attac	hments and exhibits, consists of	NEWELL RUBBERMA the following number of pa	ID and THE HOME DEPOT INC. ages:
3. Each plaintiff named above is	a competent adult		•
a. except plaintiff (na	me) qualified to do business in Califol	nia 'nia	•
(1) a corporation of (2) an unincorpora	ited entity (describe):	Ţ,	
(3) a public entity		l;	
(A) a minor	an adult	i	— bas been appointed
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	a guardian or conservator of the	estate or a guardian ao inci	utilgs peen ebboured
(b) other (spe (5) other (specify)			
b. except plaintiff (na	ma).		
(1) except plaintif (na	qualified to do business in Califo	mia	
(2) an unincorpor	ated entity (describe):	} :	
(3) a public entity		<u>.</u>	•
(4) a minor	an adult guardian or conservator of the	: estate or a guardian ad lite	m has been appointed
(a) for whom (b) other (spe			•
(5) other (specify)	•	į.	
		# 	
Information about add	ditional plaintiffs who are not con	npetent adults is shown in A	Attachment 3. Page 1

Form Approved for Optional Use Judicial Council of California 862.1(1) [Rev. January 1, 2005]

COMPLAINT—Personal Injury, Property Damage, Wrongful Death



Page 1 of 3 Code of Civil Procedure, § 425.12

٠.	. ,		j.					982.1(1)
SHOR.	TITLE: SHALABY V	, NEWELL RUBBERMAID	- i			-	CASE NUMBER:	
	• .		.	·		<u> </u>		
4.	Plaintiff (name): is doing business un	der the fictitious name (specify,):					•
5. i		ith the fictitious business name above is a natural person ant (name): NEWELL	laws.	с. 🗀	exc e pt d	efendar	nt (name):	
	(1) a business (2) a corporati	organization, form unknown on porated entity (describe):	; 	(1) [(2) [(3) [а сол	poration	rganization, form unkno rated entity (describe):	wπ
	(4) a public en	atity (describe):	; }:	(4) [a put	olic entity	y (describe):	•
	(5) other (spec	cify);		(5) [other	(specify	y):	
	b. x except detend	dant (name): THE HOME D	EPOT,	d] except	defe nd a	ant (name):	
	(2) x a corporat			(1)	a coi	poration		
	(3) an uninco	rporated entity (describe):	<u>-</u>	(3)	an u	nincorpo	orated entity (describe):	·
	(4) a public e	ntity (describe):	i.	(4)	a pu	blic entit	ty (describe):	
	(5) other (spe	eclfy):		(5)	othe	r (specii	fy):	
	Information abou	t additional defendants who are	not nat	: บral perso	ns is conta	ined in	Attachment 5.	
6.	a. 🗓 Doe defendar	endants sued as Does are unknits (specify Doe numbers): 1-1 dants and acted within the scop	50	<u>. </u>		- ;	agents or employees	of other
	b. x Doe defendar	nts (specify Doe numbers): <u>51</u>	-100	<u>.</u>	· ·	are pers	sons whose capacities a	ere unknown to
7.	Defendants who	are joined pursuant to Code of	Civil Pro	cedure se	ction 382	are (nan	nes):	
				!			• . •	
8.	b. the principal i	r court because lefendant now resides in its juris place of business of a defendar on or damage to personal prope	it corpor	ation or ur	nincorpora iurisdictio	ted asso	oclation is in its jurisdict	ional area.
	d. and	on or damage w personal protects): Defendants are for which have not desired ecretary of State	oreig gnate	n compo	oration	is do:	ing business in	n the s with the
, 9.	a. has complied	ed to comply with a claims statu I with applicable claims statutes om complying because (specify	, or					
			į					

	<i>*</i>			00 4/4\
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>		82.1(1)
SHORT TIT	LE SHALABY V. NEWELL RUBBERMAID		CASE NUMBER:	
		,		
			h compleint must have one or mo.	ne .
10. The follo	wing causes of action are attached and the statement	s spoke abbit to escu tosic	in complaint machine	, -
	of action attached):	:		
a. 🛁	Motor Vehicle			
	General Negligence Intentional Tort	:		
6. <u> </u>	Products Liability	;	•	
e. 🗀	Denmisee Lighility	!		٠.
f. X	Other (specify): Negligent Infliction	of Emotional Dist	tess	
	'	· į		
•	·	· -		
		•	•	
	·			
11 Plaintiff	has suffered			
a. 🗓	wage loss			
b. 🗀	loss of use of property	;	•	
c. 🔀	hospital and medical expenses			
d. 🔽	general damage		·.	
e	property damage	!		
f. (X)	loss of earning capacity other damage (specify): To be established	according to pr	roof.	•
g. (X)	00101 00111084 (4)	· - · · ·	• •	
		,		
		, · · - · · ·		
12. 🛄	The damages claimed for wrongful death and the rela	tionships of plaintiff to the	deceased are	
a	listed in Attachment 12.	i		
b. L	as follows:			
•	·			
13 The re	lief sought in this complaint is within the jurisdiction of	this court.		
10. 1110 10	indi dadagilis in ting dampia			
	ff prays for judgment for costs of suit; for such relief a	s is fair, just, and equitable	; and for	
a. (1)	x compensatory damages	,	·	
(2) Th	punitive damages a amount of damages is (in cases for personal injury o	i: r wronaful deeth, you must	check (1)):	
(1)				
(2)		llion		
• • •				
15. 🗶	The paragraphs of this complaint alleged on information	n and belief are as follows	(specify paragraph numbers):	
	5.			
	•		•	
		ļ.		
Date: Od	ttober 10, 2006	· .		
•		1. 1.	1. De	
		par	the Cast	
<u>Mark D</u>	Epstein (TYPE OR PRINT NAME)	(5)	GNATURE OPPLAINTIFF OR ATTORNEY)	
	•	I, I		

Prod.L-6. Count Three-Breach of warranty by the following defendants (names): defendants NEWELL RUBBERMAID and THE HOME DEPOT INC.

X Does 51 to 100

a. x who breached an implied warranty

b. 🔀 who breached an express warranty which was

x written oral

Prod.L-7. The defendants who are liable to plaintiffs for other reasons and the reasons for the liability are

listed in Attachment-Prod.L-7 as follows: defendant NEWELL RUBBERMAID and
defendant THE HOME DEPOT INC, failed to adequately warn or instruct
plaintiffs about the product's dangerous characteristics and risks of
injury.

Form Approved by the fudicial Council of California Effective January 1, 1982 Rule 982-1(6) Optional Form **CAUSE OF ACTION - Products Liability**

Legal Solutions of Plus CCP 425.12

SHORT TITLE:	NEWELL-RUBBERMAID		CASE NUMBER:
SECOND ATTAC	CAUSE OF ACTION - (number) HMENT TO 🔯 Complaint 🖂 Cross-Complaint		Page <u>Five</u>
·	eparate cause of action form for each cause of action.) Plaintiff (name): ANDREW SHALABY and SON	Į.	·
ε	elleges that defendant (name): defendant NEW	ELL RUBBERMAID	and HOME DEPOT, INC.
	X Does 51 6 60	Ev the following acts of	omissions to act, defendant

at (place): San Diego County

(description of reasons for liability):
Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress

negligently caused the damage to plaintiff on (date): April 21, 2006

- a. Defendants Newell Rubbermaid and Home Depot were negligent in designing, manufacturing, distributing and selling the defective Bernzomatic MAPP Gas torch that caused Mr. Shalaby's injuries.
- b. Ms. Dunn-Ruiz was present at the scene of the April 21, 2006 incident involving the explosion of the torch in Mr. Shalaby's hands, when it occurred, and was aware at the time that her husband was being injured.
- c. Both Shalaby and Dunn-Ruiz suffered serious emotional distress as a result of observing and experiencing the incident, including mental suffering, grief, anguish, anxiety, depression, worry, and shock.
- d. The negligence of Newell Rubbermaid and Home Depot in designing, manufacturing, distributing and selling the defective torch was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiffs' serious emotional distress.

Legal Solutions & Plus

OCT 1 6 2006

	CM-010
ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, S in number, and address):	FOR COURT USE ONLY
Mark D. Epstein (SBN 168221)	
Michael J. Veiluva (SBN 100419)	
Alborg, Veiluva & Epstein LLP	ENDORSED
200 Pringle Avenue, Suite 410	FILED
Walnut Creek, CA 94596	ALAMEDA COUNTY
TELEPHONE NO. (925) 939-9880 FAX NO.: (925) 9	19-99±0 ()
ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Plaintiffs Andrew Shalaby and Sc	nia Dunn-Ruiz OCT 1 0 2006
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF Alameda	
STREET ADDRESS: 1225 Fallon Street	1.]
MARLING ADDRESS:	By LAURA LUONG
CITY AND ZIP CODE: Oakland 94612 BRANCH NAME: Northern Division	
" · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Pubbermaid.
CASE NAME: Andrew Shalaby et al. V. Newell Inc. et al.	
CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET Complex Case C	esignation CASE NO GENERAL GEN
X Unlimited Limited Counter	Joinder
(Amount (Amount Filed with first annex	rance by defendant Judge:
	ourt, rule 1811) DEP7:
exceeds \$25,000) \$25,000 or less) (Cal. Rules of Call Rule	
INMEST 1-3 DEIOW MUST DE COMPLETED (Se	es:
1. Check one box below for the case type that best describes this ca	Provisionally Complex Civil Litigation
Auto Tort Contract	
Auto (22) Breach of contra	Antitrust/Trade regulation (03)
Uninsured motorist (45) Collections (09)	 1
Other PI/PD/WD (Personal Injury/Property Insurance cover	
Damage/Wrongful Death) Tort Other contract (3	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Asbestos (04) Real Property	Securitles litigation (28)
X Product liability (24) Eminent domain condemnation (/Inverse Environmental/Toxic tort (30)
Medical malpractice (45)	modification and a second seco
Other PI/PD/WD (23) Wrongful evictio	1 4 4443
Non-PI/PD/WD (Other) Tort Other real-proper	ux (50)
Business tort/unfair business practice (07) Unlawful Detainer	Enforcement of Judgment
Civil rights (08) Commercial (31	Enforcement of judgment (20)
Defamation (13) Residential (32)	Miscallaneous Civil Complaint
501111111111111111111111111111111111111	RICO (27)
	Other complaint (not specified above) (42)
Intellectual property (19) Judicial Review	
Professional negligence (25) Asset forfeiture	
Employment Writ of mandate	
Wrongful termination (36) Other judicial re	view (39)
Other employment (15)	
2. This case is x is not complex under rule 1800 o	f the California Rules of Court. If the case is complex, mark the
factors requiring exceptional judicial management	<u></u>
a. Large number of separately represented parties d.	Large number of witnesses
b. Extensive motion practice raising difficult or novel e.	Coordination with related actions pending in one or more courts
issues that will be time-consuming to resolve	in other counties, states, or countries, or in a federal court
c. Substantial amount of documentary evidence f. [Substantial postjudgment judicial supervision
3. Type of remedies sought (check all that apply):	
	ctive relief c. punitive
4. Number of causes of action (specify): 2	
5. This case is x is not a class action suit.	Note to some Charles from CM 015)
6. If there are any known related cases, file and serve a notice of re	elated case. (fou may use form CM-019).
Date: October 9, 2006	Made Da
Mark D. Epstein (SBN 168221)	(SIGNATURE OF PARTY OR ATTORNEY FOR PARTY)
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)	
The state was Electric appearance with the first paper filed in the	action or onceeding levicent small claims cases or cases filed
Plaintiff must file this cover sneet with the first paper filed in the under the Probate Code, Family Code, or Welfare and Institution	as Code). (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 201.8.) Failure to file may
l regulf in sanctions	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
The wife cover about in addition to any cover sheet required by the	ocal court rule.
in this case is complex under rule 1800 et seq. of the California in	Rules of Court, you must serve a copy of this cover sheet on all
to the continue to the action are proceeding.	li l
Unless this is a complex case, this cover sheet will be used for a complex case.	WER SHEET Tem Cal. Rules of Court, rules 201.8, 1800–1812;
Form Adopted for Mandatory Use Judicial Council of California	SOLUTIONS Standards of Judicial Administration. 9 19
CM-010 [Rev. January 1, 2006]	G Pius

JNS # SUL (CITACION JUDICIAL)

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:

(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
Newell Rubbermaid, Inc., a Delaware corporation, The
Home Depot, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and Does 1-100

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):

Andrew Shalaby, an individual, and Sonia Dunn-Ruiz,

SUM-100

FOR COURT USE ONLY (SOLO PARA USO DE LA CORTE)

ENDORSED FILED ALAMEDA COUNTY

OCT 1 0 2006

₿y

LAURA LUONG

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Salf-Help Genter (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away, if you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral services. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association.

Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corta y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto el desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de pueda usar para su respuesta. California (www.courtinfo:ca.gov/selfneip/espanol/), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un

servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratultos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitlo web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California. (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol/) o ponléndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales.

The name and address of the court is:
(El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Alameda County Superior Court
Alameda County Superior Court
1225 Fallon Street
Galand CA GA619

CASE NUMBER: (Número del Caso): RG062926 7

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): (925) 939-9880 (925) 939-9915 Mark D. Epstein Alborg, Veiluva & Epstein LLP 200 Pringle Avenue, Suite 410 LAURA LUONG Walnut Creek, CA 94596 Deputy Clark, by DATE: OCT 1 0 2006 (Adiunto) PATS CINESTITAL (Fecha) UST 1 V ZUUD PATS CARPETTE (Secretario)
(For proof of service of this summans, use Proof of Service of Summans (form POS-010).) (Para prueba de entrega de esta citatión use el formularlo Proof of Service of Summons, (POS-010)). NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served as an individual defendant (SEAL) as the person sued under the fictitious name of (specify): on behalf of (specify):

under:

CCP 416.10 (corporation)

by personal delivery on (date):

CCP 416.20 (defunct corporation) CCP 416.40 (association or partnership) other (specify):

CCP 416.60 (minor) CCP 416.70 (conservatee)

CCP 416.90 (authorized person)

Page 1 of 1

Form Adopted for Mandatory Use Judicial Council of California SUM-100 [Rev. January 1, 2004]

SUMMONS

Code of Civil Procedure §§ 412:20, 485

CT CORPORATION

A Walterskluwer Company

Service of Process **Transmittal**

10/16/2006

Log Number 511562337

TO:

Dale Matschullat

Newell Rubbermaid Inc. 10 B. Glenlake Parkway, Suite 500

Atlanta, GA, 30328

RF:

Process Served in Georgia

FOR:

NEWELL RUBBERMAID INC (Domestic State: DE)

ENCLOSED ARE COPIES OF LEGAL PROCESS RECEIVED BY THE STATUTORY AGENT OF THE ABOVE COMPANY AS FOLLOWS:

TITLE OF ACTIONS

Andrew Shalaby and Sonia Dunn-Ruiz, Pltfs. vs. Newell Rubbermaid, Inc. the Home Dopot, Inc., Drts.

DOCUMENT(S) SERVED:

Attomey Letter, Civil Case Cover Sheet, Summons, Complaint

COURT/AGENCY:

Superior Court of Alameda County, CA Case # RG06292670

NATURE OF ACTION:

Product Liability Litigation - Breach of Warranty - Personal Injury / Wrongful Death / Property Damage / Negligence / Product: BernzOmatic brand MAPP Gas torch

ON WHOM PROCESS WAS SERVED:

Corporation Process Company, Mariette, GA

DATE AND HOUR OF SERVICES

By Certified Mail on 10/16/2006 postmarked on 10/13/2006

APPEARANCE OR ANSWER-DUE:

30 days

ATTORNEY(S) / SENDER(S):

Mark D. Epstein Alborg, Velluva & Epstein LLP 200 Pringle Avenue Suite 410 Walnut Creek, CA, 94596-7380

925-939-9880

ACTION ITEMS

SOP Papers with Transmittel, via Fed Ex 2 Day, 790585572139

SIGNED: ADDRESS: Comporation Process Company

180 Cherokee St. NE Marietta, GA, 30060 770-795-7600

TELEPHONE

Page 1 of 1 / BH

information displayed on this transmitted is for CT Corporation's Internation disapper on mis paramytes is for CT Comparation; record keeping purposes any and is provided to the recipient for quick reference. This information does not constitute a legal opinion às to the nature of ection, the amount of Jahnsphe, the snawer data, or any information contained in the documents themselves. Recipient is responsible for interpreting said documents and for taking appropriate action. Signatures on certified mail receipts confirm receipt of the processe only, not of the contents.

by personal delivery on (date):

SUMMONS

AuScial Council of Carifornia SUBL-100 (Raw, January 1, 2004) Page 1 of 1

Code of Chill Processure 54 #12.20, 405



PRODUCTION REQUIPE PRODUCT

Notice of Service of Process

nulf / ALL Transmittal Number: 4835677 Date Processed: 10/13/2006

Primary Contact:

Nancy Bunker The Home Depot Inc. 2455 Paces Ferry Rd., NW Allanta, GA 30339-4024

Copy of transmittal only sent to:

Quinessa Malcolm

Entity:

The Home Depot Supply, Inc. Entity ID Number 2483833

Entity Served:

The Home Depot, Inc.

Title of Action:

Andrew Sahlaby vs. Newell Rubbermald, Inc.

Document(s) Type:

Summons/Complaint

Nature of Action:

Rersonal Injury

Court

Álarneda County Superior Court, California

Case Number:

RG06292670

Jurisdiction Served:

...

Çalifornia

Date Served on CSC:

10/13/2006

Answer or Appearance Due:

30 Days

Originally Served On:

1

How Served:

Personal Service

Plaintiff's Attorney:

Mark D. Epstein 925-939-9880

Information contained on this transmittal form is for record keeping, notification and towarding the attached document(s). It does not constitute a legal opinion. The recipient is responsible for interpreting the documents and taking appropriate action.

To avoid potential delay, please do not send your response to CSC CSC is SAS70 Type II certified for its Litigation Management System.

2711 Centerville Road Wilmington, DE 19808 (888) 690-2882 | sop@cscinfo.com

ST 16 30

By LITIGATION

AMENOMENT TO COMPLAINT

(Fictitious/Incorrect Name).

FORM NO. AC-001 (New 4-00)

10651851 Hr - 1011212006 11:51:46 AM

C.C.P. 55471.5, 472, 473, 474

10341894.tif - 11*/9/*2006 1:19:43 PM

OCT 3 0 2006

POS-010

		FOR COURT USE	ONLY
ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Ber number, and Mark D. Epstein, 168221 ALBORG, VEILUVA & EPSTEIN 200 Pringle Avenue Suite 410 Walnut Creek, CA 94596 TELEPHONE NO: (925) 939-9880 ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Plaintiff	address):		
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF	, † † †		
Superior Court of Alameda County 1225 Fallon St. #209 Oakland, CA 94612			
PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: Shalaby		CASE NUMBER:	3V E & V
DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: Newell Rubbermaid et	al.	RG06292670	BY FAX
PROOF OF SERVICE OF	summons	Ret. No. or Fte No.: 900725	

- 1. At the time of service I was a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years of one and not a party to this action
- 2. I served copies of: Summons, Complaint, Amended Complaint
- 3. a. Party served: Rubbermaid, Inc.
- b. Person Served: Margaret Wilson Person authorized to accept service of process
- 4. Address where the party was served: 818 WEST SEVENTH STREET LOS ANGELES, CA 90017
- 5. I served the party
 - a. by personal service. I personally delivered the documents listed in item 2 to the party or person authorized to receive service of process for the party (1) or (pale). October 20, 2006 (2) at (time): 3:00 pm
- 6. The "Notice to the Person Served" (on the summons) was completed as follows:
 - c. on behalf of.

Doe no.1Rubbermaid, Inc.

under:

CCP 416.10 (corporation)

- 7. Person who served papers
 - a Nems:

Jimmy Lizama

b. Address:

One Legal, Inc. - 132-Marin

504 Redwood Blvd #223

Novato, CA 94947

- c. Telephone number: 415-491-0606
- d. The fee for service was: \$ 14.95
- e. I am:
 - (3) registered California process server.
 - (i) Employee or independent contractor.
 - (ii) Registration No. 4553
 - (iii) County LOS ANGELES

8. I declare under penalty of periury under the laws of the United States of America and the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: October 24, 2006

Jimmy Lizama

NAME OF PERSON WHO BERVED PAPERS

Form Adopted for Mandatory Use rudidal Council of Catifornia POS-010 [Rev. July 1, 2004]

PROOF OF SERVICE OF SUMMONS

Code of Civil Procedure, § 417,10

FF# 6629902

10341894.tif - 11/9/2006 1:19:43 PM

11/08/00 14:56 FAX 4157050411

ILLF LLF

17 Modelgamely St. 10th Ploor Sen Frensieso, CA 94104 (415) 705-0400 JENKINS GOODMAN & NEUMAN

2002

ENDORSED FILED ALAMEDA COUNTY JOSHUA S. GOODMAN - State Bar #116576 NOV 8 - 2006 PAVAN L. ROSATI - State Bar #146171 JENKINS GOODMAN NEUMAN & HAMILTON LLP CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURS 417 Montgomery Street, 10th Floor San Francisco, California 94104 Deputy Telephone: (415) 705-0400 4 Facsimile: (415) 705-04111 Attorneys for Defendant HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC. (erroneously sucd herein as THE HOME DEPOT, INC.) б IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 8 IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA 9 10 ANDREW SHALABY, an individual, 11 and SONIA DUNN-RUIZ, an Case No. RG06292670 individual, 12 ANSWER OF DEFENDANT HOME Plaintiffs. DEPOT, U.S.A., INC. TO PLAINTIFFS' 13 COMPLAINT 14 NEWELL RUBBERMAID, INC., a 15 Delaware corporation, THE HOME BY FAX DEPOT, INC., a Delaware 16 corporation. 17 Defendants. 18 19 Defendant, HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC. (erroneously sued herein as THE HOME 20 DEPOT, INC.), in answer to the unverified complaint of plaintiffs herein, denies each and 21 every, all and singular, the allegations of their unverified complaint, and denies that 22 plaintiffs have been injured or damaged in any of the sums mentioned in their complaint, 23 or in any sum, or at all, as the result of any act or omission of this answering defendant. 24 AS A FURTHER SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, this answering defendant alleges that plaintiffs were themselves careless and negligent in and about the 26 matters alleged in the complaint, and that this carelessness and negligence on plaintiffs' ANSWER OF DEFENDANT HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC. TO COMPLAINT

> 10553264.fif - 11/8/2006 2:57:37 PM 10341894.fif - 11/9/2006 1:19:43 PM

14

12

21

Francisco, CA 94104 15) 705-0400 26 own part contributed as a proximate cause to the happening of the incident and to the injuries, loss and damage complained of, and any recovery by plaintiffs should be reduced or eliminated based upon comparative fault.

AS A SECOND, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, this answering defendant alleges that the sole proximate cause of the injuries and damages, if any, allegedly suffered by the plaintiffs was the negligence and fault of persons or entities other than this answering defendant, for whose acts or omissions this answering defendant is not legally or otherwise responsible.

AS A THIRD, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, this answering defendant alleges that the complaint fails to state facts sufficient to constitute a cause of action against this answering defendant.

AS A FOURTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, this answering defendant alleges that at all times and places mentioned in the complaint, plaintiffs failed to mitigate their damages. The damages claimed by plaintiffs could have been mitigated by due diligence on their part or by one acting under similar circumstances. Any recovery by plaintiffs should be reduced or eliminated due to their failure to mitigate their damages.

AS A FIFTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, this answering defendant alleges that plaintiffs had full knowledge of all the risks, dangerousness and hazards, if any there were, and nevertheless voluntarily and with full appreciation of the amount of danger involved in their actions and the magnitude of risk involved, assumed the risk of damages to themselves.

AS A SIXTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, this answering defendant alleges that its conduct was not the cause in fact or the proximate cause of any of the losses alleged by plaintiffs.

AS A SEVENTH SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, this answering defendant is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges that if plaintiffs sustained

5

7

8

11

13

12

15

14

16 17

18

19

20

21

2223

~ 4

24 okins Goodinaa man & Hamilton

10th Floor to Francisco, CA 94104 (415) 705 0400 26 allegations are expressly denied, the injuries were caused in whole or in part by the unreasonable, unforeseeable and inappropriate purpose and/or improper use which was made of the product.

AS AN EIGHTH SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, this answering defendant alleges that the damages complained of in the complaint were caused in whole

injuries attributable to the use of any product manufactured by this defendant, which

AS A NINTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, this answering defendant alleges that the plaintiffs' complaint is barred by the applicable statute of limitations, contained in California Code of Civil Procedure, Section 340(3).

or in part by the misuse and abuse of the product.

AS A TENTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, this answering defendant is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges that plaintiffs were, at all relevant times, a special employee of defendant, acting in the course and scope of that special employment, and that this action is therefore barred by the exclusive remedy provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act, as contained in California Labor Code sections 3600, 3601, and 3602.

AS AN ELEVENTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, this answering defendant is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges that at all times material herein, the plaintiffs were in the course and scope of their employment and that plaintiffs and their employer were subject to the provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act of the State of California; that certain sums have been paid to or on behalf of plaintiffs herein under the applicable provisions of the Labor Code of the State of California; that plaintiffs' employer and plaintiffs' co-employees were negligent and careless and that such negligence and carelessness proximately contributed to and caused the injuries of plaintiffs, if any; and that under the doctrine of Witt v. Jackson such negligence and carelessness should reduce or eliminate any lien claim or claim in a Complaint-In-

3

11

14

26

Neuman & Hamilton LLP 417 Montgomery St 10th Floor San Francisco, CA 94104 (ALS) 705-0400 Intervention which may be made for reimbursement of Workers' Compensation benefits paid to or on behalf of plaintiffs.

AS A TWELFTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, this answering defendant is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges that plaintiffs' complaint, and each of cause of action thereof, fails to state a cause of action in that plaintiffs failed to give timely and proper notice of breach of warranty.

AS A THIRTEENTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, this answering defendant is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges that the injuries and damages sustained by plaintiffs, if any, were solely and legally caused by the modification, alternation or change of the product referred to in the complaint and said modification, alteration or change was performed by persons or entities other than this answering defendant and without defendant's knowledge or consent.

AS A FOURTEENTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, this answering defendant is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges that defendant presently has insufficient knowledge or information on which to form a belief as to whether it may have additional, as yet unstated, defenses available. Defendant reserves herein the right to assert additional defenses in the event discovery indicates that they would be appropriate.

AS A FIFTEENTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, this answering defendant is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges that defendant may not be held liable for damages in this case pursuant to an absolute "litigation privilege" set forth in California Civil Code section 47(b).

AS A SIXTEENTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, this answering defendant is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges that defendant's conduct was lawful under the "merchant's privilege", as set forth in California Penal Code section 490.5(f)(1).

PROOF OF SERVICE

CASE NAME: Shalaby v. Home Depot, et al.

CASE NUMBER: RG06292670

3

4

5

8

9

11

13

15

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

DATE OF SERVICE: November 8, 2006

DESCRIPTION OF DOCUMENTS SERVED:

ANSWER OF DEFENDANT HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC. TO PLAINTIFFS' COMPLAINT

SERVED ON THE FOLLOWING:

Mark D. Epstein, Esq. Alborn, Veiluva & EpsteinLLP 200 Pringle Avenue, Suite 410 Walnut Creek, CA 94596 925.939.9915 fax

J. Phillip Moorhead, Esq. Keller, Price & Moorhead 229 Avenue I, Second Floor Redondo Beach, CA 90277-5600 12 310.540.8480 fax

> I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to or interested in the above-named case. I am an employee of Jenkins Goodman Neuman & Hamilton LLP, and my business address is 417 Montgomery Street, 10th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104. On the date stated above, I served a true copy of the document(s) described above, by mail, by placing said document(s) in an envelope, addressed as shown above for collection and mailing on the date shown above following the ordinary business practices of Jenkins Goodman Neuman & Hamilton LLP. I am readily familiar with my firm's practice for collection and processing of correspondence for mailing with the United States Postal Service. Under that practice, said document(s) would be deposited with the United States Postal Service at a post box in San Francisco, California on the same day (at approximately 5:00 P.M.) with postage thereon fully prepaid for first class mail.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on the date stated above.

f:\docs\jsg\shalaby v. home depot\pleadings\pos.doc

24 San Francisco, CA

25

26 (415) 705 0400

JOSHUA S. GOODMAN - State Bar #116576 **ENDORSED** PAVAN L. ROSATI - State Bar #146171 FILED JENKINS GOODMAN NEUMAN & HAMILTON LLP ALAMEDA COUNTY 417 Montgomery Street, 10th Floor San Francisco, California 94104 NOV - 9 2006 Telephone: (415) 705-0400 CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT Facsimile: (415) 705-0411 Attorneys for Defendants NEWELL RUBBERMAID, INC and RUBBERMAID, INC. 6 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 8 IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA 9 10 ANDREW SHALABY, an individual, 11 Case No. RG06292670 and SONIA DUNN-RUIZ, an individual, 12 ANSWER OF DEFENDANTS NEWELL Plaintiffs. RUBBERMAID, INC. and 13 ROBBERMAID, INC. TO PLAINTIFFS' COMPLAINT VS. 14 NEWELL RUBBERMAID, INC., a Delaware corporation, THE HOME DEPOT, INC., a Delaware 16 corporation, 17 Defendants. 18 19 Defendants, NEWELL RUBBERMAID, INC. and ROBBERMAID, INC., in 20 answer to the unverified complaint of plaintiffs herein, denies each and every, all and 21 singular, the allegations of their unverified complaint, and denies that plaintiffs have been 22 injured or damaged in any of the sums mentioned in their complaint, or in any sum, or at 23 all, as the result of any act or omission of these answering defendants. 24 AS A FURTHER, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, these answering defendants allege that plaintiffs were themselves careless and negligent in and about the rion, CA 94704 ANSWER OF DEFENDANT HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC. TO COMPLAINT 10553295.tif - 11/9/2008 11:06:53 AM

10841894.tif - 11/9/2006 1:19:43 PM

matters alleged in the complaint, and that this carelessness and negligence on plaintiffs' own part contributed as a proximate cause to the happening of the incident and to the injuries, loss and damage complained of, and any recovery by plaintiffs should be reduced or eliminated based upon comparative fault.

AS A SECOND, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, these answering defendants allege that the sole proximate cause of the injuries and damages, if any, allegedly suffered by the plaintiffs was the negligence and fault of persons or entities other than these answering defendants, for whose acts or omissions these answering defendants is not legally or otherwise responsible.

AS A THIRD, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, these answering defendants allege that the complaint fails to state facts sufficient to constitute a cause of action against these answering defendants.

AS A FOURTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, these answering defendants allege that at all times and places mentioned in the complaint, plaintiffs failed to mitigate their damages. The damages claimed by plaintiffs could have been mitigated by due diligence on their part or by one acting under similar circumstances. Any recovery by plaintiffs should be reduced or eliminated due to their failure to mitigate their damages.

AS A FIFTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, these answering defendants allege that plaintiffs had full knowledge of all the risks, dangerousness and hazards, if any there were, and nevertheless voluntarily and with full appreciation of the amount of danger involved in their actions and the magnitude of risk involved, assumed the risk of damages to themselves.

AS A SIXTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, these answering defendants allege that its conduct was not the cause in fact or the proximate cause of any of the losses alleged by plaintiffs.

AS A SEVENTH SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, these answering

9

11

13

12

15

16

17

18 19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

Jenkins Goodman Neuman & Hamilton J.J.P 417 Monigomery St 10th Flour San Francisco, CA 94104 defendants are informed and believe, and thercupon alleges that if plaintiffs sustained injuries attributable to the use of any product manufactured by this defendant, which allegations are expressly denied, the injuries were caused in whole or in part by the unreasonable, unforeseeable and inappropriate purpose and/or improper use which was made of the product.

AS AN EIGHTH SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, these answering defendants allege that the damages complained of in the complaint were caused in whole or in part by the misuse and abuse of the product.

AS A NINTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, these answering defendants allege that the plaintiffs' complaint is barred by the applicable statute of limitations, contained in California Code of Civil Procedure, Section 340(3).

AS A TENTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, these answering defendants are informed and believe, and thereupon allege that plaintiffs were, at all relevant times, a special employee of defendant, acting in the course and scope of that special employment, and that this action is therefore barred by the exclusive remedy provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act, as contained in California Labor Code sections 3600, 3601, and 3602.

AS AN ELEVENTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, these answering defendants are informed and believe, and thereupon allege that at all times material herein, the plaintiffs were in the course and scope of their employment and that plaintiffs and their employer were subject to the provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act of the State of California; that certain sums have been paid to or on behalf of plaintiffs herein under the applicable provisions of the Labor Code of the State of California; that plaintiffs' employer and plaintiffs' co-employees were negligent and careless and that such negligence and carelessness proximately contributed to and caused the injuries of plaintiffs, if any; and that under the doctrine of Witt v. Jackson such negligence and

8

10

14

26

carelessness should reduce or eliminate any lien claim or claim in a Complaint-In-Intervention which may be made for reimbursement of Workers' Compensation benefits paid to or on behalf of plaintiffs.

AS A TWELFTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, these answering defendants are informed and believe, and thereupon allege that plaintiffs' complaint, and each of cause of action thereof, fails to state a cause of action in that plaintiffs failed to give timely and proper notice of breach of warranty.

AS A THIRTEENTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, these answering defendants are informed and believe, and thereupon allege that the injuries and damages sustained by plaintiffs, if any, were solely and legally caused by the modification, alternation or change of the product referred to in the complaint and said modification. alteration or change was performed by persons or entities other than these answering defendants and without defendants' knowledge or consent.

AS A FOURTEENTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, these answering defendants are informed and believe, and thereupon alleges that defendants presently have insufficient knowledge or information on which to form a belief as to whether it may have additional, as yet unstated, defenses available. Defendants reserve herein the right to assert additional defenses in the event discovery indicates that they would be appropriate.

AS A FIFTEENTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, these answering defendants are informed and believe, and thereupon allege that defendant may not be held liable for damages in his case pursuant to an absolute "litigation privilege" set forth in California Civil Code section 47(b).

AS A SIXTEENTH, SEPARATE AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE, these answering defendant are informed and believe, and thereupon allege that defendants' conduct was lawful under the "merchant's privilege", as set forth in California Penal Code

Document 2-6

JENKINS GOODMAN & NEUMA

Filed 10/30/2007

Page 59 of <u>60</u>

Case 3:07-cv-02107-W-BLM 11/09/06 13:18 FAX 4157050 RECEIPT FOR PAYMENT UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT for the NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

> SAN FRANCISCO, CA 3392282

RECEIVED FROM: ONE LEGAL, INC SUITE 223 504 REDWOOD BLVD NOVATO, CA 94947

Case Number: 4:06CV07026-CW

F/U/B/O: Party ID:

Tender Type: CHECK 07-086400 \$100.00 Civil Filing-086400

Remarks:

07-086900 \$60.00 Civil Filing-086900

Remarks:

07-510000 \$190.00 Civil Filing-510000

Remarks:3075407

Subtotal: \$350.00

Receipt Total:

\$350,00

* Checks and drafts are accepted subject to collections and full credit will only be given when the check or draft has been accepted by the financial institution on which it was drawn.

Date: Clerk: 11/9/06

н